

Catholic Social Services of St. Clair County was founded. In addition to the strong support of the archdiocese, the League of Catholic Women played a key role in bringing Catholic Social Services into existence. Its mission was to provide counseling and assistance to troubled families and individuals regardless of their religious affiliation.

When Catholic Social Services was first instituted, it was run by the Reverend John R. Hogan and only one social worker. But as time passed and the organization grew, so did its services. With the help of volunteers, professionals, and the support of the Catholic Church, the agency was able to expand to meet the varying needs of the community. The agency now runs Child Welfare services along with Adoption and Foster Home Care as well as an Alcoholic Service Center. Services were also added to aid those experiencing problems relating to aging, pregnancy, and child abuse.

For the past five decades, Catholic Social Services has combined its resources and energies to bring aid and sympathy to those in need. Its vision and support has touched and improved the lives of many people. Over the years, Catholic Social Services has provided an indispensable contribution to the people of St. Clair County. I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Catholic Social Services of St. Clair County on their historic anniversary and in the anticipation of a successful future.

RELIEF FOR JOZEF RICHARD  
MADAR, ETELA MADAR, AND  
JOZEF THOMAS MADAR

**HON. MICHAEL F. DOYLE**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 4, 1997*

Mr. DOYLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about legislation I have introduced that would provide permanent residency to a young family from the former Czechoslovakia: Jozef Richard Madar, Etela Madar, and their son, Jozef Thomas Madar.

Several years prior to Slovakia's independence from the Czech Republic, the Madars sought refuge from religious persecution in the United States. Since arriving in our country over 6 years ago, Jozef and Etela have followed the rules and have conducted their lives in a most exemplary manner. Both Jozef and Etela have been gainfully employed the entire time they have been in the United States. In addition, neither Jozef or Etela has a criminal record and they have not accepted any public assistance or welfare. The Madar family, which has grown to include another son, Kevin, has been active in and embraced by both their community and church. In short, the Madar family is an embodiment of the strengths that built our great immigrant country.

Religious liberty, the freedom to proclaim a religious identity and practice it without fear, should be an inalienable right for people everywhere. In the former Czechoslovakia, Communist rule had a detrimental effect on all aspects of the Madar's life. Acts of harassment

and persecution resulting from their Catholic faith and anticommunist views led the Madars to our country. Discrimination not only affected the Madar's ability to practice their faith, but also their employment opportunities. While Slovakia has made some progress in the area of human rights, the Madars believe that this change has not been sufficient enough to ensure the level of safety and freedom that they have found in the United States. My legislation would allow the Madar family permanent residency which in turn would allow them to continue to contribute to the quality of life in western Pennsylvania and their community.

I am honored that I have the privilege to represent people of such fortitude and look forward to working with my colleagues to help the Madars in their quest to call the United States their lifelong home.

#### TRIBUTE TO NATIONAL ROBOTICS COMPETITION WINNERS

**HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 4, 1997*

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to take this opportunity to congratulate 20 students from four Hammond, IN, high schools for winning the national robotics competition, FIRST [For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology], held at Walt Disney World's Epcot Center on April 10 through 12, 1997. Sponsored by Beatty Machine Manufacturing Co., Team Hammond entered 1 of 156 robots from 30 States and Puerto Rico, which resulted in 113 operating robots at the nationals. Beatty Machine's Team Hammond won the elimination matches to capture the first place national title.

Members of Beatty Machine's Team Hammond include: Karl Fink, Tara Hasting, Laurie Michnal, April Roque, and Steve Wiant, of George Rogers Clark High School; Jim Ferguson, Dave Mohamed, Ebony Townsend, Kris Vankleek, and Owen Wels, of Gavit High School; Matt Jakubczyk, John Ly, Nicholas Piatek, James Severa, and Jeff Spector, of Hammond High School; and Wendy Camancho, Amber Lahners, Natalie Payonk, Danelle Rivera, and Chris Sikich, of Morton High School.

The employees of Beatty Machine and its sister corporation, Bemcor, worked in conjunction with Team Hammond to design and build the winning robot during an intense 6-week period. The 116-pound remote-controlled robot worked to place inner tubes on a central post during 2-minute competitions. After winning the Midwest-Regional championship in March, Team Hammond was courted aggressively at the national competition by such Fortune 500 competitors as Motorola, Delco Electronics Corp., and Procter and Gamble. However, Team Hammond succeeded in eliminating the competition, some of which budgeted as much as \$500,000 for this year's entry. In addition to winning the first place title, the team was awarded the Honeywell Leadership in Control Award. This honor is awarded by a panel of

distinguished judges to the team, which demonstrates leadership in the application of electronic control systems. According to a FIRST spokesperson, "Beatty Machine had a very, very strong team and good strategy."

In honor of their accomplishments, Team Hammond was awarded special recognition through a joint resolution in the Indiana State Senate and House of Representatives on April 25, 1997, and also met with Indiana Governor, Frank O'Bannon, in April. In addition, the team was featured on ESPN's 1-hour special covering the national competition on Saturday, August 23, 1997. The team expects appearances on other television shows, as well as a visit to the White House later this year.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my other distinguished colleagues to join me in congratulating the Beatty Machine Team Hammond students on their outstanding accomplishments in the field of science and technology. I would also like to commend the employees of Beatty Machine for the leadership they have taken in the education of our community's youth. All involved in this project should be proud of the hard work and dedication they have put forth to succeed and achieve.

#### TRIBUTE TO JOHN AND EFFIE WESTRA

**HON. BRAD SHERMAN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, September 4, 1997*

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, it is a great honor for me to rise today and pay tribute to John and Effie Westra, who are being honored by the Simon Wiesenthal Center as Righteous Gentiles for their heroic decision to harbor Jewish children during World War II. Through their sacrifice and dedication to their fellow man, both John and Effie Westra have provided models for all of us who seek to transcend differences of race and religion that all too often divide us.

This story of courage begins in what for many of us is a dark and distant past amid the horrors of WWII. Thanks to John and Effie Westra, however, life and hope overcame those horrors which engulfed the world as they, like countless others, protected Jewish children from the Nazis.

I could only imagine what thoughts went through John's and Effie's thoughts as they took in Alex Radziner—the threat of reprisal from the Nazis if they were caught hiding a Jewish child, the fear of facing an uncertain future amid a war-shattered Europe.

However, despite the constant threat of being discovered, John and Effie Westra hid Alex for 2 long and difficult years. Their compassion reminds me of a saying. "The brave man is not he who feels no fear, . . . But he, whose noble soul its fear subdues, And bravely dares the danger nature shrinks from."

It was due to the moral courage of John and Effie Westra that Alex Radziner survived the war. Today I join Alex Radziner's family to commend the Westras' courage and take honor in recognizing John and Effie.